



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 3, 2020

Contact: Office of Public Affairs  
202-514-6551

**Inmate Death at USP Tucson**

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, October 22, 2020, inmate Derrick Howard tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Tucson, in Tucson, Arizona. Institution medical staff provided treatment and monitored his condition. On Monday, October 26, 2020, he was transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation. On Saturday, October 31, 2020, his condition worsened and he was placed on a ventilator. On Thursday, December 3, 2020, Mr. Howard, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Howard was a 51-year-old male who was sentenced in the Eastern District of Missouri to a 720-month sentence for Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Obstruction of Justice, Use of Interstate Commerce Facility with Intent to Commit Murder-for Hire, and Threatening to Kill the Assistant United States Attorney. He had been in custody at USP Tucson since November 8, 2019.

USP Tucson is a high security facility that currently houses 1,352 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at [www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp](http://www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp).

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at [www.bop.gov](http://www.bop.gov).

###